

Mount Vernon Police Ledger October 2008



Halloween Safety Tips



Halloween is a fun time for kids, but it is also an important time to be extra vigilant for possible safety hazards so that your children have a fun and safe Halloween. Some tips to make Halloween safe include:

Costume safety

- Choose a costume made of flame retardant material.
- Costumes should be short enough so that they don't cause your child to trip and fall.
- For good visibility, add some reflective tape to the costume or bag he is using to carry candy or make/choose a costume made of bright material that is visible in the dark.
- Masks should fit securely and allow your child to see well and not hinder visibility.
- If using face paint, make sure it is nontoxic and hypoallergenic.
- Knives, swords and other props should be made of a flexible material, so that they don't pose a hazard if fallen on.

Trick-or-Treating safety

- Children should be well supervised by an adult when trick-or-treating. Older children should trick-or-treat in large groups in well known neighborhoods.
- Carry a flashlight.
- Stick to well lit houses in familiar neighborhoods only.
- Follow traffic signals and rules of the road.
- Drive slowly.
- Avoid taking shortcuts across backyards or alleys. Stick to the sidewalks of well lit streets.

Continue Page 2



Inside this issue:

Halloween Safety Tips.....	1-2
Prevention.....	3
Major Incidents.....	4
Crossing Guards Needed	5
Aggressive Driving.....	6
Law of the Month.....	7-18
CAC Meeting	9

Dates to Remember

October 13 - Columbus Day
October 14 - CAC Meeting
October 31 - Halloween





Halloween Safety Tips



Candy safety

- Instruct your children to bring all candy home before eating it so that you can carefully inspect it for tampering. Children shouldn't snack while they're out trick-or-treating, before parents have a chance to inspect the goodies. To help prevent children from munching, give them a snack or light meal before they go -- don't send them out on an empty stomach.
- Tell children not to accept -- and, especially, not to eat--anything that isn't commercially wrapped.
- Throw out candy or treats that are homemade, unwrapped or if they appear to have been tampered with (pinholes in wrappers, torn wrappers, etc.).
- Parents of young children should remove any choking hazards such as gum, peanuts, hard candies or small toys.
- Wash all fresh fruit thoroughly, inspect it for holes, including small punctures, and cut it open before allowing children to eat it.

General safety tips

- Homeowners should prepare their home for trick-or-treaters by removing obstacles from the front yard, restraining dogs and other animals, and lighting the house well.
- Provide treats that are individually wrapped candy or offer kids nonfood treats, such as stickers and erasers.
- Artificial lights and candles are a safer alternative to real candles with a flame that can pose a fire hazard.
- If going to an adult Halloween party, make sure that you don't drink and drive. Use a designated driver if alcohol is being consumed.

Fun Alternatives

- Find a special event or start one in your own neighborhood.
- Community Centers, Shopping Malls and Houses of Worship may have organized festivities.
- Share the fun by arranging a visit to a Retirement Home or Senior Center.
- Create an alliance with College Fraternities, Sororities or Service Clubs for children's face painting or a carnival.

CARVING A NICHE

- Small children should never carve pumpkins. Children can draw a face with markers. Then parents can do the cutting.
- Votive candles are safest for candle-lit pumpkins.
- Candlelit pumpkins should be placed on a sturdy table, away from curtains and other flammable objects, and should never be left unattended.



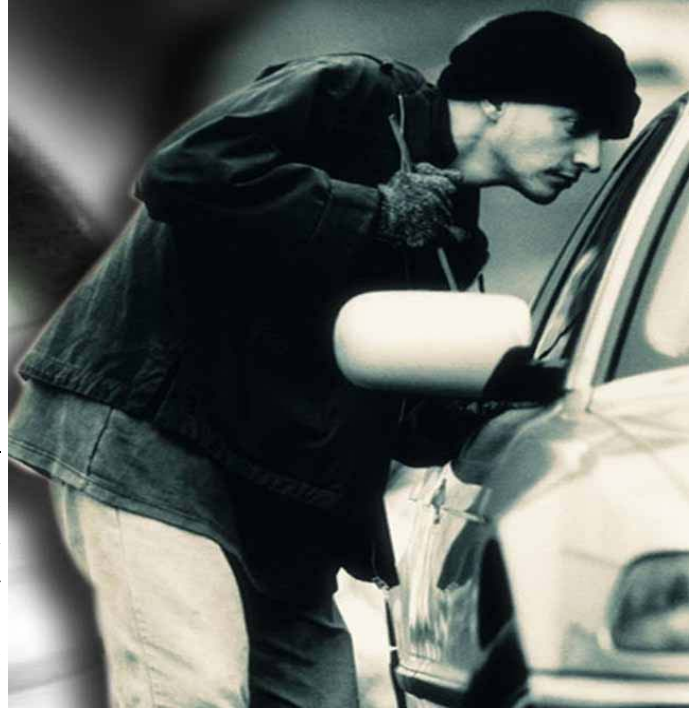


Opportunity...An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure



By MPO Robbie Clift

In the past few months the Mount Vernon area has had hundreds of vehicles entered, many vehicles stolen and thousands of dollars of property taken from the owners. Residents are leaving their vehicles unlocked with valuable items inside, or locked (a good sign), but with high dollar items in plain view. Typically they include laptop computers, cell phones, I-pods, wallets, purses and GPS devices. Items are too tempting for the thief looking for a quick score, and evidently, worth the increased risk of getting caught by having to break the car window to get to the prizes.



Most crimes are happening in the wee hours of the morning, with little chance of the thieves being observed by residents or a patrolling police officer. Therefore, we need to spread the word about opportunity reduction. Opportunity reduction is the community's most efficient tool to affect the scourge of property crime in and around homes. The best part is it's easy and doesn't cost a dime. Creating a habit of locking our doors, car and home, and remembering it is worth the extra trip back to the car to make sure no tempting valuables are left inside. It is really that simple. Obviously opportunity reduction is one of many facets involved in preventing crime in the community, but remembering to perform these simple tasks will go farther than you think.

Opportunity reduction, when implemented and supported through the formation of good security habits and community reinforcement, will greatly impact the criminal's ability and desire to operate in our neighborhoods. Couple this simple technique with our other layers of protection and we will have gone a long way to making Mount Vernon an even safer place to live. So lock'um up Mount Vernon, and don't leave those lures in your cars.



***Lock Your Vehicles
&
Remove All Property
Help us reduce the opportunity
for our communities to be victimized.
Prevention Works!***

Major Incidents

ROBBERY

Fairchild Drive

A 31-year-old Alexandria-area woman was robbed on Saturday, September 13. Around 8:40 p.m. the woman parked her car and walked up to an apartment building in the 7200 block of Fairchild Drive. She was met at the entrance by a man who held the door for her. The man followed the woman inside and up to the second floor. The suspect pushed the victim down and took her purse. He then fled out the front door of the building. The victim did not require medical attention. The suspect was described as black, in his 30s. He was about 5 feet 6 inches tall with a muscular build. He was wearing a black tank top and beige shorts.

ROBBERY

Richmond Highway/Radford Drive

On Sunday, September 14 shortly after 12:30 a.m., a 41-year-old Alexandria-area woman was robbed near the intersection of Richmond Highway and Radford Drive. A man approached the woman and engaged her in casual conversation. He threatened the victim with a knife and took an undisclosed amount of money from her. The victim was not injured and the suspect fled on foot. He was described as black, in his 30s, about 6 feet tall and approximately 150 pounds. He was wearing dark clothing.

ROBBERY/ ATTEMPT MALICIOUS WOUNDING

Buckman Road/ Lakepark Drive

Police were called to the area of Buckman Road and Lakepark Drive at 1:18 a.m. on Monday, September 15, for a robbery. A 54-year-old Alexandria-area man was walking south on Buckman Road when he was approached by a man riding a bicycle. The other man engaged the victim in conversation then reportedly displayed a knife and demanded money. The victim complied and attempted to run away. The suspect chased the victim to a nearby home and tried to cut the victim with the knife. A woman in the area heard the altercation and phoned police as the suspect rode away on his bicycle. The victim did not require medical treatment. The suspect was described as black, in his mid 20s. He was about 5 feet 9 inches tall and 165 pounds. He was wearing a white shirt, black shorts and a black ball cap.

FRAUD

Richmond Highway 8200

A 60-year-old Alexandria-area man was the victim of a fraud scheme on Tuesday, September 16. The man was shopping inside a business in the 8200 block of Richmond Highway when he was approached by another man inside the store. The suspect engaged the victim in conversation when a second suspect, acting as a complete stranger, also entered the conversation. The two suspects deceived the victim, making him believe they needed him to deposit their money in his account. They also convinced the victim to take them to several banks in the area and withdraw money. The victim gave them a large sum of cash. The suspects gave the victim a bag that was supposed to contain cash and then left. The victim walked into his bank to make the deposit and found the bag empty. The suspects could only be described as black, in their 40s. They were about 5 feet 10 inches tall and 175 to 200 pounds.

Crossing Guards Needed

By MPO Allie Eggers

Being a crossing guard is a very important job. A crossing guard makes sure students cross the street safely and keep an eye on strangers in the area. In essence, you are our extended eyes and ears in the community. When there is no crossing guard to work a mandated crossing location a police officer has to handle the crossing. There can be four to five crossings a day that the police have to handle. This means there are fewer officers to handle calls, which increases the response time to critical incidents.

Please call the Mount Vernon station if you are interested in becoming a crossing guard. This is another great opportunity for you to help out in the communities and get paid doing it.

What do Crossing Guards Do?

- Work 10 hours per week.
- Control traffic to ensure the safe and orderly movement of student pedestrians to and from school.
- Monitor operation of wink-o-matic school flashing lights during opening and closing times and report any malfunctions.
- Report hazardous traffic conditions at student crossing locations.

What qualifications do you need?

- High school graduation or a G.E.D. issued by a state department of education.
- Knowledge of traffic regulations.
- Ability and willingness to work in inclement weather.
- Ability to work with children.
- Ability to follow written and oral instructions; tact and courtesy.

Applicants should be able to pass a medical exam provided by the Occupational Health Center. They must satisfactorily complete a criminal background check.

How do you apply? You can get an application at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police or from the Mount Vernon District Police Station. You can also contact Sgt. Bob Blakley at the Mount Vernon station at 703-360-8400 ext 5113 or email Robert.Blakley@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Pay: \$12.43 to \$20.72/hour

COME JOIN OUR TEAM



CROSSING GUARDS NEEDED IN YOUR COMMUNITY

**THE FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT
IS SEEKING QUALIFIED APPLICANTS FOR THE
POSITION OF SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD**

Aggressive Driving

The combination of unsafe and unlawful driving actions that demonstrate a disregard for safety.

Across America and throughout Fairfax County, people seem to be taking out their aggressions on the road, dodging and weaving, speeding, passing on the shoulder and tailgating. On a national level, aggressive driving violations are on the rise an average of 7 percent yearly since 1990. This trend is apparent on all the primary roads in Fairfax County.

The Police Department has a number of programs designed to combat aggressive driving. Some of these programs, such as Smooth Operator, are the combined effort of a number of local jurisdictions. Other programs target a specific driving behavior or perhaps a period of the calendar year, such as the start of school or the holiday season. Frequently citizens ask how they can get involved or report an aggressive driver or a driver with a child not protected by a safety belt or child safety seat. In response, the Fairfax County Police Department has developed the Traffic Safety Watch Program.

Traffic Safety Watch

Traffic Safety Watch is designed to enlist the support of citizens in educating non-users of child safety seats and safety belts and to educate aggressive drivers. Bright yellow Traffic Safety Watch brochures are now available to the public at the district police stations. These brochures provide information on aggressive driving and safety laws pertaining to child safety restraints. There is a postage- paid portion of the brochure that can be filled out by the citizen detailing their observation of a violation and then mailed to the Traffic Safety Watch program. Participants are not required to provide their names. The Police Department will then send the owner of the vehicle a letter stressing the importance of safety restraints for their children and/or the dangers of aggressive driving. In addition, when the observed violation involves an unrestrained child, the letter offers a variety of resources for the parent or caregiver.

This program is also used to generate a letter to a vehicle owner when we receive a phone call at the Public Safety Communications Center, or an e-mail reporting a violation.

Public education and awareness are important factors in stopping aggressive driving and the unnecessary risk some children face when not properly restrained. With help from the community, through programs such as Traffic Safety Watch, we can make a greater impact.

To report aggressive driving, please go to: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/traf_sfty_report.htm/ to fill out the on-line form, or call the traffic division at 703-280-0550.

**HELP REDUCE INJURIES
RESULTING
FROM CRASHES.WEAR
YOUR SAFETY
BELTS!**



Pedestrian Safety . . It's the Law

Section 82-9-1. Pedestrians crossing highways or streets.

(a) When crossing highways or streets, pedestrians shall not carelessly or maliciously interfere with the orderly passage of vehicles. They shall cross whenever possible only at intersections or marked crosswalks. Where any intersection of highways or streets contain no marked crosswalks pedestrians shall not be guilty of negligence as a matter of law for crossing at any such intersection or between intersections when crossing by the most direct route.

(b) Pedestrians may cross at an intersection diagonally when all traffic entering the intersection has been halted by lights, semaphores or signals by a peace or police officer. ((3-13-63; 1961 Code, § 16-221.)

Section 82-9-2. Right-of-way of pedestrians.

(a) The driver of any vehicle upon a highway or street shall yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing such highway or street within any clearly marked crosswalk, whether at mid-block or at the end of any block, or at any regular pedestrian crossing included in the prolongation of the lateral boundary lines of the adjacent sidewalk at the end of a block, or at any intersection when the driver is approaching on a highway or street where the legal maximum speed does not exceed thirty-five miles per hour, except at intersections or crosswalks where the movement of traffic is being regulated by law enforcement officers, uniformed school crossing guards, or traffic direction devices where the driver shall yield according to the direction of the law enforcement officer, uniformed school crossing guard, or device.

(b) No pedestrian shall enter or cross an intersection in disregard of approaching traffic.

(c) The drivers of vehicles entering, crossing, or turning at intersections shall change their course, slow down, or come to a complete stop if necessary to permit pedestrians to cross such intersections safely and expeditiously.

(d) Pedestrians crossing highways or streets at intersections shall at all times have the right-of-way over vehicles making turns into the highways or streets being crossed by the pedestrians. (3-13-63; 1961 Code, § 16-222; 37-76- 82; 35-02-82.)



Section 82-9-3. Pedestrians stepping into highway or street where they cannot be seen.

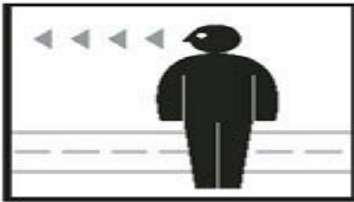
Pedestrians shall not step into that portion of a highway or street open to moving vehicular traffic at any point between intersections where their presence would be obscured from the vision of drivers of approaching vehicles by a vehicle or other obstruction at the curb or side, except to board a passenger bus or to enter a safety zone, in which event they shall cross the highway or street only at right angles. ((3-13-63; 1961 Code, § 16-223.)

Note: For similar state laws, see Va. Code Ann., § 46.2-923, § 46.2-924, § 46.2-926.

Pedestrian Safety Tips



/// **Cross the street at marked crosswalks** and intersections.



/// **Before crossing, look** left, right, then left again.



/// **Use pedestrian pushbuttons.**



/// **Begin crossing the street on “Walk”** signal.



/// **Stay visible after dark** and in bad weather.



/// **Watch out for trucks and buses backing out** of parking spaces and driveways.

I Love Myself - I Know I'm Grand!

A Celebration of Women



**in honor of
Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

Join us for a day of fellowship, workshops, and *pampering* -
Because you are a woman and because you are a survivor!
Bring your dreams, bring your faith, and bring your smiles...

Keynote Speakers:

Jacklyn Winborne

Mother of domestic violence victim, Shaquita Bell

Julie Edwards

Clearing Your Field – “Beauty From The Inside Out”

Special Invited Guests:

Senator Toddy Puller

Delegate Kris Amundson

Supervisor Jeff McKay

Colonel Dave Rohrer, Fairfax County Chief of Police

Saturday, October 25, 2008

10:00-3:00

(Registration begins at 9:45)

Childcare provided with special activities

**** Teens Welcome ****

Walt Whitman Middle School • 2500 Parker's Lane • Alexandria, VA 22309

For further information, contact Mattie Palmore at 703-863-2306

or Kari Warren at 703-868-5531

Reasonable accommodations will be provided to individuals with disabilities. Please provide request 7 days prior to this event.

☆ Special Candlelight Vigil ☆

Friday, October 24, 2008

Sherwood Hall Library

2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria VA 22309

7:00-9:00 p.m.

Come walk with us to Mt. Vernon Hospital in memory and in honor of victims of domestic violence. (Our walk will begin and end at the library.)



**Mount Vernon Citizens
Advisory Committee**

**Fairfax County Police
Department**

Mount Vernon District Station

2511 Parkers Lane

Alexandria, Virginia 22306

Station Phone Number: 703-360-8400

Crime Prevention: 703-360-8928

Email: mtvcpo@fairfaxcounty.gov

Non-Emergency—703-691-2131

EMERGENCY—911

***Making Our Community Safer
Through Crime Prevention***

Mount Vernon Citizens Advisory Committee

Chairman - Judy Schultheis

Vice Chairman - Ginger Krup

Treasurer - Marianne Baltimore

Secretary - Mary Alvarado

Mount Vernon District Station

Station Commander - Captain David Moyer

Assistant Commander - Lieutenant David Russell

Crime Prevention Officer - MPO Robbie Clift

Crime Prevention Officer- PFC Daryl Davis

Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination in all county programs, services and activities. Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request. Call 703-691-2131, TTY 703-204-2664

A Fairfax County, Va., publication

**Remember, for Non-Emergency events or reports, call
703-691-2131**

The Mount Vernon Citizen's Advisory Committee's monthly meetings will reconvene October 14, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at the Mount Vernon District Station.

The topic for the October 14th meeting will be burglaries and the speaker will be Detective Gary Tuggle of the Mount Vernon Police Station. Also a representative from the juvenile court will speak on how juveniles are handled through the court system.

